

Probe after GM jellyfish-lamb sold as meat in France

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The jellyfish-lamb, called "Rubis", was sent to an abattoir from the National Institute for Agricultural Research in Paris late last year and somehow ended up on a butcher's slab.

"A female lamb born to a sheep that was genetically modified as part of a medical research programme was sold to a person in the Parisian region in October 2014," said the National Institute for Agricultural Research in a statement, confirming a story first reported by Le Parisien newspaper.

"Although this ovine does not present any risk to humans or the environment, the institute has just informed local prosecutors about this breach of environmental regulations," it added.

The case has been taken up by a public health court in Paris, a judicial source told AFP.

Rubis "found itself on a plate! Who ate it? No one knows," exclaimed Le Parisien on Tuesday.

"All we know is that the meat left an abattoir in the Parisian region," it added under the headline "The crazy affair of the GM sheep".

France remains one of the staunchest opponents of GM research, ever since environmental protesters pressured the government into banning GM crops in the 2000s.

The European Union authorised the import and sale of 19 GM crops in April, but is likely to pass legislation allowing individual countries to block their use—in part thanks to demands from France.



Benoit Malpau, president of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, pictured during a press conference at the Jouy-en-Josas research centre on June 23, 2015, after a genetically modified lamb ended up at a slaughterhouse

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